



Belfast District Council (Shadow)

Report to:	Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Agreement on scheduling of August Committee meetings
Date:	23 rd June, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive Designate
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1.0	Background Information
1.1	The purpose of this paper is to present to Members for agreement a proposed Committee timetable for August together with a proposed date for Council in September.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Members will be aware that Council has agreed to a recess period in July 2014. The next meeting of Committees will therefore be held in August where a number of key consultation documents (e.g standing orders) will be presented together with initial preparatory work on the 2015-16 rate setting process.
2.2	The work to inform Committee papers will require consultation with party groups, party group leaders and the Budget and Transformation Panel. These briefings will be scheduled for the beginning of the month with a view to holding Committee meetings between 15 th and 29 th August. This includes two meetings of the Shadow SP&R Committee, the first of which will take place on August 15 th and the second on August 29 th . This will ensure that we comply with consultation deadlines imposed by the DoE.
2.3	The legislation underpinning the Shadow Council sets out new requirements around the number of days <i>in advance</i> that papers must be made available for meetings. As a result of this the Council meeting cannot be held until 7 days after the last Committee and therefore the proposed date for the Shadow Council meeting is Wednesday 10 th September.

2.4	<p>Moving forward it would be preferable that all business of the Shadow Council takes place within the period of one calendar month with the Shadow Council meeting on the second working day (where possible). Therefore, given that there are no similar legislative constraints affecting the timing of the current Council's meetings and that Committee business will largely begin to 'wind-down', it is proposed that the scheduling of Shadow Council meetings should take precedence and be held in the first two weeks of each month (beginning in September).</p> <p>This recommendation will also be brought to the current Council for approval and a revised schedule of meetings for both Councils will subsequently be developed.</p>
3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no financial or human resource implications contained within this report.
4.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.
5.0	Recommendations
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree the proposed timetable of meetings for August at appendix 1 - Agree the Council meeting for Wednesday 10th September - Note the intention to seek agreement from existing Council that Committee meetings will be re-arranged where necessary to give precedence to the Shadow Council.
6.0	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Proposed August Committee timetable	